

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/812,907

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

Applicant(s)

GRIFFIN, GARY J.

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 20 March 2007 interview, 12 January 2007 amendment.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-27 and 54.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 03/20/07.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter N. Lalos on March 20, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Canceled claims 3 and 28-39.

In claim 1, in line 7 after "mounted on said bolt" inserted -- , and each including a washer insert molded in said inner grommet and engageable with said upset portion of said bolt when said inner grommet is mounted on said bolt--.

In claim 4, in line 1 after "according to claim" deleted "3" and replaced with --1--.

In claim 20, in line 9 after "received in said groove" inserted --and engageable with said washer--.

In claim 54, in line 8 after "mounted on said bolt" inserted -- , and including a washer insert molded in said inner grommet and engageable with said upset portion of said bolt when said inner grommet is mounted on said bolt--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Art Unit: 3679

As to claims 1 and 54, Hardy, Jr. et al. (US 4,944,523) disclose the claimed link with the exception of comprising an inner grommet having a portion thereof functional to snap-fit on the upset portion of the bolt when the inner grommet is mounted on the bolt, and including a washer insert molded in the inner grommet and engageable with the upset portion of the bolt when the inner grommet is mounted on the bolt.

As to claim 20, Hardy, Jr. et al. disclose the claimed link with the exception of comprising a pair of inner grommets having a washer insert molded therein, a bore through the body thereof and the washer and a groove in the bore permitting the inner grommet to be snap-fit onto an upset portion of the bolt with the upset portion being received in the groove and engageable with the washer when the inner grommet is mounted on the bolt with the bolt extending through the bore; and a pair of outer grommets having a washer inset molded therein, a bore through the body thereof and the washer and a groove in the bore permitting the outer grommet to be snap-fit onto a flanged portion of one of the nuts.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicant's own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the link disclosed by Hardy, Jr. et al. to have the above mentioned elemental features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure. The following patents show the state of the art with respect to grommets:

Fischer (US 2,824,663) and Triplett (US 4,686,808) are cited for pertaining to grommets comprising a body formed of a resilient material having a bore having an annular groove, and a rigid washer insert molded in the body disposed adjacent the groove.

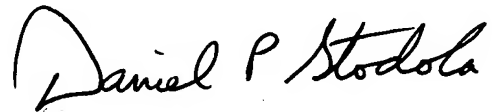
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


MPF
03/29/07



DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3800